

**Current Status of the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A microscope comprising:

an arcuate microscope arm, said arcuate microscope arm comprising an interior and an exterior surface; said interior surface comprising at least one fixed recessed portion, said at least one fixed recessed portion is arcuate and extends ~~extending~~ from said interior surface of said microscope arm to an inner recess surface of said microscope arm, said fixed recessed portion comprising a surface for gripping said microscope.

10. (currently amended) The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said fixed recessed portion comprises at least one wall extending from said inner recess surface to said interior surface.

11. (currently amended) The microscope of Claim 9 wherein a portion of said at least one wall is selected from the group consisting of planar, arcuate, spherical, and ellipsoidal.

12. (currently amended) The microscope of Claim 9 wherein a portion of said fixed recessed portion is disposed at a position above a microscope stage and below a microscope objective turret.

13. (currently amended) The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said fixed recessed portion comprises a textured surface for increasing the static coefficient of friction thereof.

14. (currently amended) The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said fixed recessed portion is shaped for complementarily accepting a portion of the human hand.

15. (currently amended) ~~A microscope comprising:~~ The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said  
~~an arcuate microscope arm, said microscope arm comprising an interior and an exterior surface;~~  
~~said interior surface~~ further comprises ~~comprising~~ a removable panel, said removable panel having at least one recessed portion, said at least one recessed portion extending from said interior surface of said curved microscope arm to an arcuate inner recess surface of said ~~microscope arm~~ removable panel, said recessed portion comprising a surface for gripping said microscope.

16. (original) The microscope of Claim 15 wherein a portion of said recessed portion is disposed above a stage and below an objective turret of said microscope.
17. (original) The microscope of Claim 15 wherein said recessed portion comprises at least one wall extending from said inner recess surface to said interior surface and said at least one wall is selected from the group consisting of planar, arcuate, spherical, and ellipsoidal.
18. (original) The microscope of Claim 15 wherein said recessed portion comprises a textured surface for increasing the static coefficient of friction thereof.
19. (original) The microscope of Claim 15 wherein said recessed portion extends from said interior surface of said microscope arm to a side of said microscope arm.
20. (currently amended) A microscope comprising:  
an a curved microscope arm having an a curved interior surface and an a curved exterior surface; said curved interior surface comprising at least one recessed portion, said at least one fixed recessed portion extending from said curved interior surface of said curved microscope arm to an arcuate inner recess surface of said curved microscope arm, said recessed portion comprising a surface for gripping said microscope.
21. (new) The microscope of Claim 20 wherein said fixed recessed portion comprises at least one wall extending from said inner recess surface to said interior surface.
22. (new) The microscope of Claim 20 wherein the shape of a portion of said at least one wall is selected from the group consisting of planar, arcuate, spherical, and ellipsoid.
23. (new) The microscope of Claim 20 wherein said fixed recessed portion comprises a plurality of walls, said plurality of walls extending from said interior surface to said inner recess surface.
24. (new) The microscope of Claim 23 wherein said plurality of walls slope from said interior surface to said inner recess surface.
25. (new) The microscope of Claim 20 wherein a portion of said fixed recessed portion is disposed above a microscope stage and below a microscope objective turret.
26. (new) The microscope of Claim 20 wherein said fixed recessed portion comprises a textured surface for increasing the static coefficient of friction thereof.

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27. (new) The microscope of Claim 20 wherein said fixed recessed portion is shaped for complementarily accepting a portion of the human hand.